

REMARKS

The Advisory Action states that the amendments submitted on December 13, 2005 were not entered.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,515,548 to Matsumoto et al. ("Matsumoto").

Claims 2, 10, 12, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0208286 to Abercrombie ("Abercrombie").

Claims 6-8 and 16-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0022081 to Syed ("Syed").

Claims 5, 9, 15, and 19 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in dependent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 9 and 19 have been canceled.

Claims 1-20 remain pending.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

With respect to independent claims 1 and 11, the Office Action states that Matsumoto discloses all of the recited elements.

Independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of respective dependent claims 9 and 19.

As the Examiner has stated claims 9 and 19 would be allowable if written in independent form, amended independent claims 1 and 11 are now allowable over Matsumoto.

Claims 3, 4, 13, and 14, which depend directly or indirectly from the independent claims 1 and 11, incorporate all of the limitations of the corresponding independent claim and are therefore allowable over Matsumoto for at least those reasons provided for independent claims 1 and 11.

Rejection of Claims 2, 10, 12, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

As previously stated, independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of respective dependent claims 9 and 19.

As the Examiner has stated claims 9 and 19 would be allowable if written in independent form, amended independent claims 1 and 11 are now allowable over Matsumoto and Abercrombie.

Claims 2, 10, 12, and 20, which depend directly or indirectly from the independent claims 1 and 11, incorporate all of the limitations of the corresponding independent claim and are therefore allowable over Matsumoto and Abercrombie for at least those reasons provided for claims 1 and 11.

Rejection of Claims 6-8 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

As previously stated, independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of respective dependent claims 9 and 19.

As the Examiner has stated claims 9 and 19 would be allowable if written in independent form, amended independent claims 1 and 11 are now allowable over Matsumoto and Syed.

Claims 6-8 and 16-18, which depend directly or indirectly from the independent claims 1 and 11, incorporate all of the limitations of the corresponding independent claim and are

therefore allowable over Matsumoto and Syed for at least those reasons provided for independent claims 1 and 11.

Objection to claims 5, 9, 15, and 19

The Office Action states that claims 5, 9, 15, and 19 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in dependent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of respective dependent claims 9 and 19.

As the Examiner has stated claims 9 and 19 would be allowable if written in independent form, amended independent claims 1 and 11 are now allowable.

Claims 5 and 15, which depend directly or indirectly from the independent claims 1 and 11, incorporate all of the limitations of the corresponding independent claim and are therefore allowable for at least those reasons provided for independent claims 1 and 11.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration, withdrawal of all rejections, and allowance of all pending claims in due course.

If any fees are involved, please charge Deposit Account No. 09-0456/IBM.

Respectfully submitted,



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